

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

IO-10 OMB-01 /074 W

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R 071612Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2717

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 2575

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PO, PT

SUBJ: TIMOR: GOI PROBES GOP INDEPENDENCE PLANS

1. PORTUGUESE TIMOR DECOLONIZATION COMMISSION IN DILI DISTRIBUTED NOTE MAY 2 TO APODETI AND FRETELIN/UDT LEADERS VIA TIMORESE SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE. STATEMENT ANNOUNCED PLANS TO INITIATE FIRST PHASE OF TIMORESE DECOLONIZATION AND CONTAINED FOLLOWING POINTS: (A) GOP ACCEPTS PRINCIPLE OF TIMORESE INDEPENDENCE, (B) TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT FOR TIMOR IS TO BE CREATED IN OCTOBER 1975, (C) THERE SHALL BE AN AD HOC CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY COMPOSED OF FREELY ELECTED PERSONS TO DISCUSS NEW LAW FOR POLITICAL PARTIES, AN ELECTORAL LAW FOR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF PORTFOLIOS NOT RESERVED FOR GOP AMONG TIMORESE PARTIES, (D) CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD IN OCTOBER 1975. THE ASSEMBLY WILL DRAFT THE FUNDAMENTAL LAW FOR TIMOR AND WILL HAVE THE POWER TO DECLARE INDEPENDENCE "SOON" AFTER IT CONVENES.

2. GOP PLANS TO INITIATE DISCUSSIONS ON PLANS FOR TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT ON MAY 7 WITH FRETELIN AND UDT AND ON MAY 9 WITH APODETI. GOVERNOR LEMOS PIRES WILL HEAD GOP SIDE OF NEGOTIATIONS. FRETELIN TEAM WILL CONSIST OF FRETELIN PRESIDENT FRANCISCO XAVIER
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AMARAL, SECRETARY GENERAL ALARICO FERNANDES AND AT LEAST TEN

OTHERS. UDT AND APODETI MEMBERS ARE UNKNOWN.

3. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENT, INDONESIAN CHARGE MUHAMMUD HASSAN TOLD EMBOFF ON MAY 6 HE WAS CALLING ON MINISTER ALMEIDA SANTOS TO CLARIFY GOP POSITION REGARDING TIMOR. HASSAN SAID HE WAS TAKING THIS ACTION BECAUSE JAKARTA INSTRUCTED HIM NOT TO PAY TOO MUCH ATTENTION TO LISBON PRESS REPORTS AND OBTAIN INFORMATION DIRECTLY FROM THE GOP. HASSAN STRONGLY CRITICIZE ANTI-INDONESIAN SLANT IN LISBON PRESS. HASSAN, WHO SPOKE TO EMBOFF AT MINISTRY JUST BEFORE HIS MEETING WITH ALMEIDA SANTOS, SEEMED CONFUSED ABOUT GOP POLICY.

4. COMMENT: HASSAN'S CONCERN ABOUT GOP PLANS IN TIMOR COULD INDICATE THAT GOP STRATEGY IN TIMOR MAY BE TO OBTAIN OR DICTATE AGREEMENT AMONG LOCAL PARTIES IN TIMOR PRIOR TO CONSULTING JAKARTA ABOUT TIMOR'S FUTURE.
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